

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, EAST ST. LOUIS DIVISION

RAMIRO CERVANTES, #R44942,

Plaintiff,

v.

CHRISTINE BROWN and DR. VIPIN SHAH,

Defendants.

Case Number 3:16-cv-00754-NJR-DGW

Judge Nancy J. Rosenstengel  
Magistrate Judge Donald G. Wilkerson

**QUALIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Pursuant to Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and 45 C.F.R. § 164.512(e)(1), the Court finds good cause for the issuance of a qualified protective order and ORDERS as follows:

1. The parties and their attorneys are hereby authorized to receive, subpoena and transmit “protected health information” pertaining to Plaintiff to the extent and subject to the conditions outlined herein.

2. For the purposes of this qualified protective order, “protected health information” shall have the same scope and definition as set forth in 45 C.F.R. § 160.103 and 164.501. Protected health information includes, but is not limited to, health information, including demographic information, relating to either (a) the past, present, or future physical or mental condition of an individual, (b) the provision of care to an individual, or (c) the payment for care provided to an individual, which identifies the individual or which reasonably could be expected to identify the individual.

3. All “covered entities” (as defined by 45 C.F.R. § 160.13) are hereby authorized to disclose protected health information pertaining to Plaintiff to attorneys representing the Plaintiff and Defendant in the above-captioned litigation.

4. The parties and their attorneys shall be permitted to use or disclose the protected health information of Plaintiff for purposes of prosecuting or defending this action including any appeals of this case. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, disclosure to their attorneys, experts, consultants, court personnel, court reporters, copy services, trial consultants, and other entities or persons involved in the litigation process.

5. Prior to disclosing Plaintiff's protected health information to persons involved in this litigation, counsel shall inform each such person that Plaintiff's protected health information may not be used or disclosed for any purpose other than this litigation. Counsel shall take all other reasonable steps to ensure that persons receiving Plaintiff's protected health information do not use or disclose such information for any purpose other than this litigation.

6. Within 45 days after the conclusion of the litigation including appeals, the parties, their attorneys, and any person or entity in possession of protected health information received from counsel pursuant to paragraph four of this Order, shall return Plaintiffs protected health information to the covered entity or destroy any and all copies of protected health information pertaining to Plaintiff, except that counsel are not required to secure the return or destruction of protected health information submitted to the court.

7. This Order does not control or limit the use of protected health information pertaining to Plaintiff that comes into the possession of the parties or their attorneys from a source other than a "covered entity," as that term is defined in 45 C.F.R. § 160.103.

8. Nothing in this Order authorizes counsel for the Defendants to obtain medical records or information through means other than formal discovery requests, subpoenas, depositions, pursuant to a patient authorization, or other lawful process.

9. This Order does not authorize either party to seal court filings or court proceedings. The Court will make a good cause determination for filing under seal if and when the parties seek to file Plaintiff's protected health information under seal.

**DATED: December 22, 2016**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald G. Wilkerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Donald" and "G." being more stylized and "Wilkerson" having more distinct letter forms. It is positioned over a circular official seal of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. The seal features an eagle with wings spread, holding an olive branch and arrows, set against a background of stars and stripes. The text "UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT" is at the top, and "NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS" is at the bottom.

**DONALD G. WILKERSON**  
United States Magistrate Judge